Survey regarding mentally retarded children in Madhya Pradesh

8502. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minishter of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any Survey regarding number of mentally retarded children and adult persons in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details and results thereof; and

(c) the welfare measures Government have undertaken or propose to extend to mentally retarded persons in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) A nationwide sample survey was conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in 1991 to assess the number of children with developmental delays in the age group of 1-14 years, according to which the prevalence rate in Madhya Pradesh is 18 per thousand in urban areas and 36 per thousand in rural areas.

(c) Under the 'scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for setting up of Special Schools' two voluntary organisations are being assisted for running the special schools for mentally retarded viz. (i) Digdarshika Institute for Rehabilitation, Bhopal and (ii) Viklang Seva Bharati, Jabalpur.

Welfare Measures for blind persons

8503. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the measures taken up by the Government for the welfare of blind persons in the State of Madhya Pradesh and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): The Ministry of Welfare provide services for the welfare of blind persons through voluntary organisations. During 1994-95, grants were given to the organisation named "Madhya Pradesh Welfare Association for the Blind", Indore for placement of blind persons in employment. In addition there is one Special Employment Exchange and one Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for handicapped at Jabalpur a four special cells at Bilaspur, Dawas, Durg and Rewa to provide placement to disabled persons including blind persons in gainful employment.

Inclusion of Communities in Assam in SC/ST List

8504. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are a number of demands from certain communities in Assam for their inclusion in the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe List of the Constitution;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to introduce constitutional Amendment Bill in the Parliament during the Summer Session of Parliament to include those communities into those lists; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not taking a decision on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) A large number of demands for the inclusion of various communities in the lists of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes of various States/ UTs including Assam have been received.

All such demands have been referred to the Advisory Committee for their recommendation. The report of the Committee is awaited. Further necessary action would be taken as per provisions contained in Articles